

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) A processor-implemented document display method, comprising:

- extracting a relationship between a plurality of documents in a group of documents;
- selecting the relationship, the group of documents associated with the relationship, and an expansion condition for each document of the group of documents;
- forming a section group that includes the group of documents selected according to the relationship;
- generating a virtual document from the group of documents;
- identifying an association between the documents in a thread in the virtual document, as a tree structure; and
- selectively realizing the expansion condition of the thread in the virtual document, based on the tree structure.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein forming the section group comprises embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein storing the relationship comprises storing information of a parent document related to a document read from the group of documents.

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a hierarchical relationship.

30. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the extracted relationship comprises a thread; and

wherein the group of documents forms a message.

31. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 30, further comprising:

storing an expansion condition of the message; and

wherein generating the virtual document comprises generating a section by fetching an expansion condition of the message.

32. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:
accepting an expansion request to a header from a user; and

adding the message to the virtual document on the basis of the accepted expansion request.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the documents in the message comprise a collection of documents that are unscheduled for editing.

34.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) A processor-implemented document display method, comprising:

mapping a plurality of documents into a virtual document;
organizing one or more thread expansion buttons and one or more content expansion buttons into a tree structure;
displaying, in the virtual document, the one or more thread expansion buttons that, when selected, a thread containing the plurality of documents, is expanded without document content being expanded; and
displaying, in the virtual document, the one or more content expansion buttons that, when selected, document content is expanded.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein each thread expansion button has a first state and a second state, the first state being displayed when one or more threads have been omitted from display, the second state being displayed when all threads are expanded in the display.

40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein each content expansion button has a third state and a fourth state, the third state being displayed when document content has been omitted from display, the fourth state being displayed when document content is expanded in the display.